

FINALIST FOR THE 2005 NURSING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles Reed, RN, BSN, CNRN, Patient Care Coordinator for the University Health System in San Antonio. Every year, thousands of nurses across the country are nominated for the 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards. The RNs are nominated by their colleagues, peers, and managers and selected by a panel of nurse leaders. The Nursing Excellence Awards exemplify the best that professional nursing has to offer. They bring initiative, ingenuity, and inspiration to their workplaces and communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in nursing. In addition, the Nursing Excellence Awards recognize extraordinary nurses who represent the countless other dedicated nurses who play a crucial role in the nation's health care system. Mr. Reed's outstanding performance earned him a finalist position in this year's competition.

Mr. Reed rose through the ranks from student nurse to patient care coordinator in the health system and now has duties ranging from meeting staffing needs and coaching, counseling, and mentoring nurses to managing patient care. He ensures clinical practice is kept to the highest standard, frequently by working one-one with nurses, and he often meets with families of ICU patients, once staying over an additional 4 hours to be sure a family's concerns were addressed.

I commend Mr. Reed for all the hard work and dedication he gives to his patients at University Health System and I wish him the best of luck next year.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the White Rock Rotary Club for their 45 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the White Rock Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The White Rock Rotary Club has raised money to support charities and programs, such as Journey of Hope. The White Rock

Rotary Club has also been very involved in a local community project building a picnic pavilion in conjunction with two other local rotary clubs in honor of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary. In addition, they support community endeavors such as tutoring programs and nursing home visits for senior without family members.

Through these initiatives, the White Rock Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR ELISE M.
CUSACK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 4 years of elective service by retiring Erie County Legislator Elise M. Cusack.

Legislator Cusack was elected in 2001, replacing a man who was then the Legislature's longest-serving member, William A. Pauly. Legislator Cusack's district includes the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, but includes a small portion of the town of Cheektowaga, which is located within the 27th Congressional District.

Elise Cusack has been an energetic representative of her constituents, maintaining a full service district office and garnering a reputation for effective constituent service. Although Legislator Cusack and I sit on different sides of the political aisle, I have always respected her intellect and her demonstrated commitment to her constituents.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, Elise Cusack will be able to don her other governmental hat—that of a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Power Authority—on a full time basis. As someone with a keen interest in the actions of that public authority, I look forward to many anticipated future opportunities to interact with Legislator Cusack in a professional capacity.

In closing, I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to rise and honor the service of Legislator Elise Cusack and I want to offer to her, her husband and children my very best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN DENIS
O'CONNOR ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to recess today for the Thanksgiving holiday, I wish to take a moment to congratulate my friend Brendan O'Connor on the recent occasion of his 50th birthday, November 3, and to express my gratitude for his extraor-

dinary contributions to the greater Worcester, Massachusetts community. In a place rich with kind people and colorful characters, Brendan stands apart but certainly not alone. His quick wit, brilliant sense of humor and boundless compassion have endeared him to countless admirers both near and far. This was never more evident than at the spectacular 50th birthday celebration his wonderful wife Claire and devoted sons Rory and Eamon hosted for him at Worcester's historic Tuckerman Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2005. My wife Lisa and I were honored to attend that unforgettable evening with scores of Brendan's family and closest friends. The night was made truly special by the presence of Brendan's father, Sean, who traveled from the family's native Limerick City, Ireland; and all four of his siblings—his brothers, John, Kevin and Declan, and his sister, Carmel. And while Brendan's dear departed mother Joan (Horgan) O'Connor was not able to be there in person, her spirit was felt in the festive atmosphere that continued well into the night. All in all, the birthday party was an incredible tribute to Brendan but it does not reveal the full measure of the man.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being a great human being, Brendan O'Connor is also a very successful entrepreneur. As proprietors of the renowned O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar in Worcester, Brendan and Claire have graciously welcomed thousands upon thousands of hungry and thirsty patrons to their establishment. Every customer that comes through their doors is treated to excellent cuisine accompanied by the sterling service and warm hospitality the Irish have made famous. In fact, O'Connor's has grown to become much more than just a popular dining destination. It has become an institution deeply embedded in the fabric of the Worcester community. This is due in large part to Brendan's remarkable gift for making everyone he encounters feel special and at home.

However, it is important to note that Brendan does not reserve his gifts and talents for his patrons alone. He has generously given his time and energy to numerous civic and charitable causes. As a long-time board member and past-president of the Emerald Club of Worcester County, Brendan has raised enormous financial support for the clients of the Mercy Centre through the promotion of Irish cultural events. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Emerald Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians earned him the well-deserved honor of having been previously selected as the Grand Marshal of Worcester's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Brendan has also shared his talents with the Worcester area youth as a volunteer soccer coach for many years. His unbridled passion and skillful teaching of the sport have produced numerous championship teams at various competitive levels. More importantly, he has been a positive guiding force in the lives of an untold number of young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply say that Brendan O'Connor is among the most beloved figures in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. His charm is exceeded only by his devotion to his family and fellow man. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions with he and his wife